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THE WASHINGTON CRITIC,
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RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, - Editor.

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THE GROWTH OF THE CAPITAL.

The rapid growth of Washington is well illustrated by the remarkable increase in the number of persons and firms engaged in the real estate business as agents or brokers.

In 1871, when a change of Government took place in the District, and the comprehensive plan of improvement was inaugurated, under the energetic push of ex-Governor Shepherd, there were only some fifteen to twenty firms devoted to real estate business, while to-day there are upwards of one hundred and sixty live, active, energetic establishments engaged in that prosperous line of business.

Through their acquaintances and business relations they wield a powerful influence in promoting the general prosperity and advancement of the material interests of the national seat of Government.

They are always on the alert to exhibit to visitors and investors the numerous grand attractions of the Capital City, and point out with intelligent discourse the many growing improvements of public and private character, and the onward destiny which must inevitably follow with the grand development of the Republic.

The increase in population and wealth of the United States insures the advancement of prosperity at its capital. As the Nation prospers so must its seat of Government. The whole country contributes to the growth of Washington. Its prospects were never better or brighter than to-day.

A DARK LOOK AHEAD.

General Benjamin F. Butler, who was supposed by some people to be running for the Presidency in the last campaign, takes a rather gloomy view of the times generally. He thinks that our grandchildren will live to see the Vanderbilts and Goulds hauled to the nearest lamp-post and hung. Some day, in the opinion of the Essex statesman, a "real red Communist" will lead the people who are dissatisfied with the present bad and rapidly-growing worse condition of affairs.

As for monopolies, General Butler is down on them all, with probably a mental reservation in favor of the manufacture of hunting, in which he is popularly supposed to enjoy an exclusive interest, and the market for which he will doubtless want to control even when the stars and stripes give place to the red muslin of the Commune.

No remedy for present and prospective evils is proposed, but there was, according to General Butler, a remedy last year, the advantages of which were not realized by the people. It is unnecessary to say that this remedy was the election of himself to be President. The mistake which the General thinks he made was in running against a stone wall. He was foolish enough to think that the people had grown better and wiser and that the workingmen of the new Republic were intelligent. This age is not different from any other, and experience has taught him the same lesson as history.

It must be admitted that the General is always interesting in what he says and often strikingly epigrammatic. We are sorry to see him become so much of a pessimist. The first thing he knows the artists will all be after him to pose for Poes' Raven.

The summer's series of open-air concerts by the Marine Band, given alternately at the White House and Capitol Grounds, concludes to-day. The music has been uniformly excellent and the attendance large, orderly and appreciative. The effect of such a popular entertainment, given by the Government at the Capital, could not be otherwise than good. Governments caring less than ours for the welfare of their people have provided at their capital fêtes and fairs, or it may be, at the popular taste suggests. The good citizens of Washington want music, well selected, and well rendered. It is a means of recreation and a source of pleasure of which they exhibit an ardent and cultivated appreciation, thus rendering these Wednesday and Saturday reunions worthy of the stately places in which they are held, creditable alike to the Government which provides, and to the people who enjoy.

The National Republican says that Mr. Eaton will enjoy his retirement from public labors all the more because of his knowledge that the country was willing to let him take a rest! Why this thinness on the part of our esteemed contemporary? The man who has done so much to inject Republican clerks into a Democratic Administration should be held in a more grateful remembrance by his party's chief organ.

SUNSET.

Doctor and his assembled relatives gathered behind convenient tree boxes and in the adjacent grocery stores and proceeded to open fire upon the Judge with double-barreled shotguns and revolvers. He received nine wounds, but it now looks as if he would recover. From all we learn of Judge Ward he is the kind of man whom it would be better for the future peace of his neighbors to kill than to scratch.

The great Democratic blizzard that was to knock the Republican party of Ohio completely out has come and gone. It was a letter written by Murat Halstead to Salmon P. Chase at the beginning of the war, in which he said that General Grant was an incompetent and that the man who would shoot him would do a patrol's deed. He also advised Chase to knock Mr. Lincoln's head against the wall until some sense had been beaten into it. As far as this letter will affect Ohio politics it is a dead calm—not a blizzard. What Mr. Halstead might have written over twenty years ago is no more a part of modern politics than the bloody shirt.

GEO. E. JONES of Binghamton has consented to run on the Democratic State ticket as candidate for Lieutenant Governor, in place of Mr. Flower, declined. He was a fighting soldier in the late war, is a good campaign speaker and will work hard, heart and pocket-book for the success of the ticket.

The complaint of one of our citizens that he was arrested for picking up a chestnut in the White House grounds shows that our police force is desirous of keeping up with the times. Any man who, in this wide-a-wake age, will stop to pick up a "chestnut" should be made a prompt example of.

VICE-PRESIDENT HENDRICKS will attend the opening of the St. Louis Fair on Monday next. He will also participate in the procession of the Veiled Prophetess at night and consult the oracles.

PEOPLE IN GENERAL.

EX-CONGRESSMAN CASEY YOUNG is seriously ill at Hot Springs, Ark.

"Mr. BEAINE," says the *Keystone Journal*, "will remain in August next winter."

LIEUTENANT GREENLY was given a banquet last evening by the leading citizens of Pittsfield, Mass. He will soon leave on a trip to Scotland.

BEN SMITH of Columbus, Ohio, formerly one of the leading railroad builders of the country and at one time immensely rich, has been adjudged insane.

MR. BOSWELL P. FLOWER is in Kingston, Ontario, on business connected with the Kingston & Pembroke Railway, of which he is the vice-president.

THOMAS LUMSDEN, brother of Sir Peter Lumden and a wealthy farmer residing near Winnipeg, Manitoba, was gored to death by a bull on Monday last.

Mrs. FELICIA GOOLING, daughter of Ed. C. Taylor of Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire, will shortly wed Mr. August Byron, the only son of the Hon. and Rev. Augustus Byron, a son of the seventh Lord Byron, who succeeded his cousin, the author of "Childe Harold."

LATE Publications Received.

The *Electric Magazine* for October abounds as usual in judicious selections from the late English periodicals and well maintains its reputation as a valuable compendium of current foreign literature. Reminiscences and Pictures and the Paris Newspaper Press by Thomas Chalmers—Work of Victor Hugo," by Alexander Charles Swinburne—Death—and Afterwards," by Edwin Arnold—Reminiscences of an Attache, "How to Cause and Prevent a War," "The Birth of a Nation," "Food and" and "The Printed and Binding of the Revised Bible." The *Electric* is one of the most instructive and helpful of all the magazines, especially to the intelligent reader of art and its literary characteristics. It is published by E. R. Pelton, 25 Bond street, New York.

The *Southern Biron*, published at Louisville, Ky., by F. A. Avery & Sons, makes its advent for October with very apparent success, as it has already established its literary character on a high and substantial basis. It is well illustrated and thoroughly readable, containing much of interest and value both in its literary features. It contains "Bragg's Invasion of Kentucky"; "The Pocahontas of the South"; with portrait; "The Beginning of the Ku-Klux Klan"; "Kentucky on the River Pearl"; and much other enterprising matter, as well as for twelve cents.

Good Housekeeping improves with each succeeding number. The tiredhousekeeper finds refreshment in its columns and strength to renew the daily round of duties which were too little sentiment and poetry. *Good Housekeeping* comes like a welcome friend and counselor.

The *Day in History*, Sept. 30, p. c. 61, When Pompey entered Rome just after he came home.

From a little trip for fighting up in France, They gave a public ball, For Pompey had had a fall.

To lead the Gauls off an evil place.

We Was From Montreal.

"Gentlemen, would you mind moving along and giving me a seat? I don't feel very well."

"You look well enough to stand; we're crowded already," said a young man. "Excuse me, but I've traveled all the way from Montreal and I didn't."

Within the hour a stranger had a choice of all the seats and a seat from Montreal either.—[Boston Herald.]

SUNSET.

The golden gates of day in quiet close Since the sun has passed, and told on his crimson banner, the world is still, And laid away. The valley of repose is laid where the stately monarch goes; His steeds his couch beyond the mountains old.

Wrapt in the drapery of living gold, And through the night to us, which darker grows.

At such a time, how beauty at a queen!

Founds—Came to the premises of

the *Washington Evening Star*.

Leaves 7th st. wharf daily, except Sunday, for New York, 10 a. m.; 3 p. m.; returning to Washington 10 a. m.; 3 p. m.

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FOR EXCHANGE—